

255 Algonquin Drive
Vergennes, Vermont 05491

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to urge your support for the recent settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. This agreement ended a long court battle that, in my opinion, was a waste of both time and taxpayers' money. The basis of the antitrust suit was the monopolization by Microsoft of the computer industry. What was ignored was that Microsoft's systems work. Microsoft was one of the first companies to offer an integrated software package, allowing for the simplification of basic operating functions that we now enjoy.

I believe that competition and free enterprise will eventually reign in any company. I do not believe any one company dominates a field for too long. I also beleive that for efficient computer use by the majority of people, it is imperative that the operations be as simple and consistant as possible. The Microsoft system isn't perfect yet and it probably never will be, especially if the government continues this harassment, which does nothing more than bleed off money that could be spent on further R&D - not lining the pockets of the lawyers.

I hope that there are no further delays in the settlement process. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Doug Stuart